

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/734,678

Examiner

Dalena Tran

Applicant(s)

NAGAKI, KOICHI

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/26/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TAN Q. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 12/13/00, assigned serial 09/734678 and title "Navigation system".
2. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

After carefully reviewing the application in light of the amended claims and the additional search of all the possible areas relevant to the present application, a set of related prior art references has been found, but those prior art references are not deemed strong to make the application unpatentable. Thus, it is found that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Although the references found disclose several claimed limitations, none of the references discloses a navigation system comprising: a plurality of memory devices, each of which stores the same road map data; and a road map data reading device for accessing one of the memory device, which is selected in accordance with a predetermined condition, and reading out the road map data required for the navigation operation directly from the selected memory device (claim 1); wherein road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed, which is indicated by a priority flag set in advance (claim 2). Also, none of the references found, a management information storage device holds name information indicative of a name of the road map data, and road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed, in which a presence of the road map data is confirmed in accordance with the name information; also, management information storage device holds date and time information indicative of date and time when the road map data is updated, and road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed, which is capable of reading out the road map data

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corresponding to the date and time information indicative of latest date and time (claim 7); a differential management information storage device for extracting the management information from the memory devices and holding differential management information indicative of a difference between the management information extracted from one memory device and extracted from another memory device, wherein road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed in accordance with the differential management information (claim 8). None of the references found, a navigation system comprising: a road map data transferring device for controlling a first memory device to read out the road map data from record medium at a predetermined timing, and then transferring and storing the read out road map data to a second memory device; and road map data reading device for selecting one of first and second memory devices in accordance with a predetermined condition, accessing the selected one of first and second memory devices and reading out the road map data required for the navigation operation directly from the selected memory device (claim 9); road map data transferring device compares the name information of the road map data in first memory device with that in second memory device, and selects the road map data, which is not stored in second memory device, as the road map data to be transferred (claim 11); road map data transferring device compares the date and time information of the road map data in first memory device with second memory device, and selects the road map data, whose date and time in second memory device is older than that in first memory device, as the road map data to be transferred (claim 12). Also, none of the references found, a differential management information generating device for comparing management information of the map data in first memory device with management information of the map data in second memory device at a

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predetermined timing, and generating differential management information indicative of a difference between the compared management informations; and a map data reading device for selecting one of first and second memory devices in accordance with the differential management information, accessing the selected one of first and second memory devices and reading out the map data required for the navigation operation therefrom (claim 17).

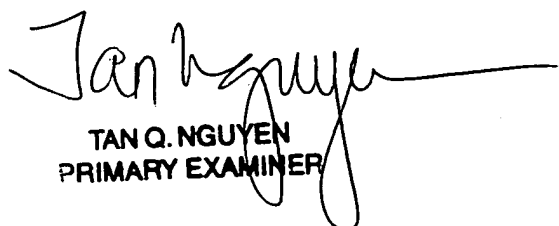
Claims 1-17 are allowable over the prior art of record.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalena Tran whose telephone number is 703-308-8223. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 AM-5:30 PM), off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 703-305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/dt
October 26, 2004


TAN Q. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER